COMMEMORATOR

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Women Prisoners Fight Cruel and Unusual Punishment

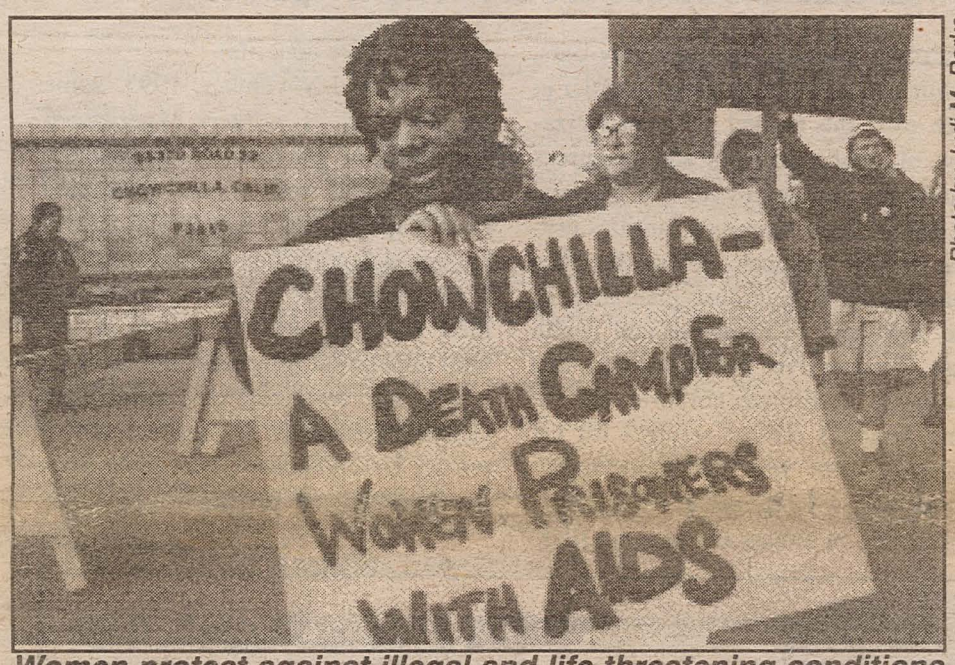

Photo by Judi M. Parks

Women protest against illegal and life-threatening conditions at Chowchilla, where inmates are charged $5 by the prison for each sick call.

File Federal Class Action Suit

Inmates from Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) in Chowchilla (the largest women's prison in the country and the world) and the California Institution for Women (CIW) in Frontera, filed a federal class action lawsuit, Shumate et al. v. Wilson, in U.S. District Court in Sacramento last April, citing torture and other forms of physical and mental abuse of inmates by prison authorities and a lack of adequate health care for the prisoner population.

With approximately 90,000 American women imprisoned in the United States at any given time, California's 7,700 women inmates are leading the fight across the nation to end the torture, both physical and psychological, that is hidden behind the walls of women's prisons.

Suit Alleges Constitutional Violations

The federal class action lawsuit charges that the serious lack of medical care documented by these inmates, amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, and therefore violates the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The plaintiffs are seeking declaratory and injunctive relief.

In January 1996, the district court judge hearing the Shumate case granted class certification, a move that places the case on the fast track toward trial, which should occur toward the end of this year, or the beginning of 1997.

"Since the lawsuit was filed, there have been many changes in medical personnel, particularly at the Central California Women's Facility. There have also been changes in policy and procedure, although it appears these changes have not improved health care for the women," stated plaintiffs' attorney Catherine Campbell.

Incarcerated Women's Lives in Danger

"The legal team visits the women at each institution monthly to check on their medical situation and monitor the care they receive," Campbell continued. "Emergency situations are called to the immediate attention of the wardens at each institution. This does not, however, change the systemic prob-

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Round Valley Reservation Fights Police Repression

Covelo, Mendocino County, northern California — Residents of the Round Valley Native American community recently filed a class action, civil rights lawsuit against members of the Mendocino and Sonoma County Sheriff Departments, the Mendocino District Attorney, the Fort Bragg Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, the California Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Since April 14, 1995, according to the claimants, the Indian people of Round Valley Reservation and surrounding areas, have suffered illegal attacks, intimidation, false arrests, false imprisonment and a host of other abuses by various local, state and federal police agents, with local Mendocino Sheriff Jim Tuso as the point man under "color of law."

The legal complaint, filed by attorney Dennis Cunningham on behalf of Round Valley's Indian population, charges, "Indian people and others related to or associated with Leonard 'Acorn' Peters and Eugene 'Bear' Lincoln and their families, who were victimized by government agents and police. (Lincoln is, as Peters was, a member of the traditionalist Wylacki tribe, which has been fighting to stop the encroachment of giant timber inter-

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Photo by Karen Pickett

Round Valley children practice traditional dance, taught to them by the late Leonard "Acorn" Peters.

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Government Shutdown and Guns to the Balkans

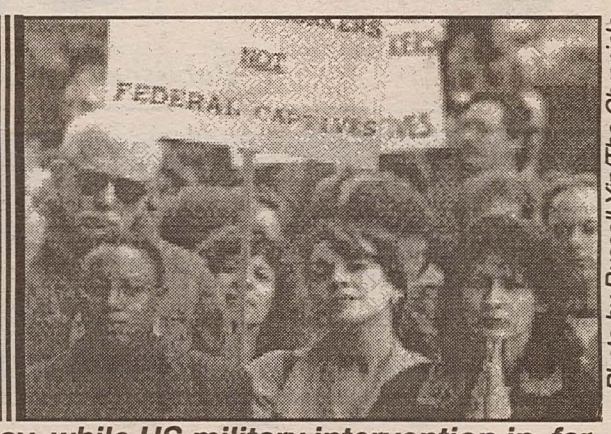

Photo by Russell Yip/The Chronicle

Federal workers protest shutdown and work without pay, while US military intervention in far-away Bosnia faces no opposition from either the Democratic or Republican parties.

They laid siege upon all the communities of the world, dominating the institutions to such an extent that the people were not served by the institutions in their own land....We see very little difference in what happens to a community here in North America and what happens to a community in Vietnam — Huey P. Newton, speech delivered at Boston College, November 18, 1970.

This scenario has not really changed since Huey Newton urged his listeners to take action in favor of Intercommunalism; except that it is 1996, and the United States has invaded Bosnia, not Vietnam.

The American public knows little of the details of the U.S. "peace-keeping" mission in Bosnia. The Pentagon-controlled "war coverage" permits only fragments of the whole story to filter through.

As 20,000 troops intervene in the domestic affairs of the former Yugoslavian nation, costing millions of taxpayer dollars and countless lives each day, supported by Republicans and Democrates alike, the United States government has shut down, apparently due to a federal budget impasse between its executive and legislative branches, and workers and their families suffer as hundreds of thousands of federal employees are laid off and/or furloughed and the remainder forced back to work without pay. In response, in militant protest, angry federal workers took to the streets across the nation.

Corporate Controlled Media

The federal budget contest between the President and Congress diverted public attention from the newest U.S. military intervention into the affairs of foreign lands, through use of government-and-corporate controlled media. Companies such as Westinghouse, which, now owns CBS, and General Electric, which controls NBC, are major military contractors. The federal budget took over the front pages, usurping the Bosnian war, except for the intermittent showcase story — such as President Clinton's visit to Bosnia.

While the government is dismantling vital public resources and cutting services in order to accelerate the privatization transition (and therefore save federal dollars to ensure maximum corporate profit), the media has the public focussed on whether to cut $300 billion or $275 billion from the budget of Health and Human Services, items such as public hospitals, clinics, schools, libraries, enforcement of job safety regulations etc. But the only difference between the President's budget and Congress' budget is that Clinton's stabs the public in the back, and the Congress's stabs the public in the heart.

"There's little difference between a stab in the back and a stab in the heart. A stab in the back, one can't see one's attacker, and one dies slowly; a stab in the heart, one sees one's attacker, and dies quickly," stated *Commemorator* Editor Melvin Dickson.

The Clinton budget does so covertly, in increments, and under the table, through granting federal waivers that release cities and states from their responsibility to provide public services: health care, education, housing, transportation, and to provide regulations for public health and safety, using illegal executive laws for the sole purpose of circumventing public awareness and debate. Over the past two years, President Clinton's Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, has unconstitutionally granted federal waivers under Title 19 to nine states, altering congressional policy to allow privatization of funds for medical care for low-income communities within these states.

The majority of the public knows nothing of the terrible effects of these policies, which institutionalize a policy of rationing services for the poor. It is also a violation of the separation of powers, provided for in the Constitution, for the Executive branch to alter a policy voted in by the body of Congress. The Republican Congress, on the other hand, is up front in the media about their desire to pass public services and resources over to private concerns to dispense as they see fit, using the power of money and lobbyists to sell that idea to the public.

Deny Critical Health Services

Multi-national corporations, (such as Columbia/Hospital Corporation of America, owned by Richard Scott, a new-breed capitalist baron of the service economy) have privatized over 50 percent of the multibillion-dollar health industry, through contracting with government for Medicaid dollars while lobbying against nonprofit hospitals and health facilities; literally usurping, through leveraged buy-outs, public resources at jet speed in order to take over the market. This privatization of public services and resources withholds and denies tens of millions of low-income American families critical health services. These families cannot afford high-cost insurance or the high cost of medicine and health care. Turning over public services and resources to private corporations not only removes critical services for the working poor but also undermines union wages, by merging, downsizing, and hiring of temporary workers (who do not receive benefits).

Since mid-November, 1995, some 850,000 federal workers experienced the effect of government downsizing and political maneuvers generated from Capitol Hill. Already, the federal budget stalemate has caused hardship for thousands of federal workers and their families, and for many people who depend on programs and services under the auspices of Health and Human Services. To make matters worse, U.S. Federal Court sided with the government refusal to pay fur-

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Opinions and positions taken in articles with bylines are those of their writers. The views expressed in the bylined editorial and opinion pieces published by The Commemorator *do not* necessarily *indicate its endorsement or support. — The Editor*

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COMMEMORATOR

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"SERVING ALL OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES"

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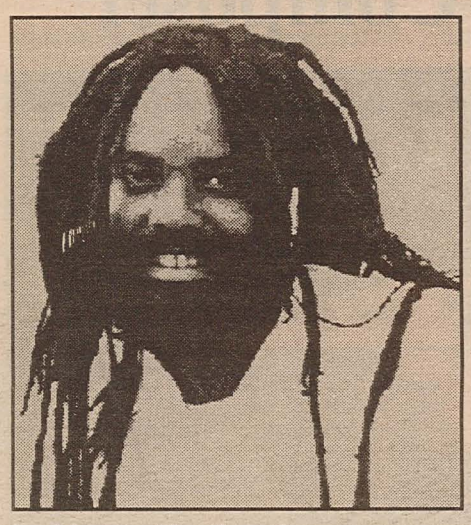

THE MEDIA IS THE MIRAGE

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

America's mass media is a marvel of technology.

It is whiz-bang, sparkle, glitter and satellite wizardry.

It is a master plan of methods to communicate, and a pauper's worth of substance.

With such technology, how are people so woefully misinformed?

The average American neither knows nor cares about the vast world beyond the nation's border.

The average American student knows little math, no history and very little geography, nor does s/he want to know.

Americans have computers in school, dozens of TV stations, and the most aggressive news media on earth—does that mean they're better informed?

Hardly.

On November 2, 1995, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly, 117 to three, to condemn the United States for its continuing blockade of Cuba. The international community called the U.S. blockade a "flagrant act of aggression," and a "blatant violation of international law."

That the U.N. vote was reported at all in American media, is amazing, for such news is more often than not passed over entirely by the American press. But where was information about the blockade itself, the effects suffered by the Cuban people, in-depth comments from U.N. delegates and leaders around the world? For a more substantive report, one had to listen to the BBC World News Service, for the rest of the world takes note of events the U.S. prefers to igonore.

American media is a business, and it has a mission, not to inform Americans, but to entertain them.

Every media enterprise in America reports the drivel that Marcia Clark and Chris Darden are "secret" lovebirds, but the vote of a global assembly condemning U.S. actions receives only scant coverage, at best! Why?

The media is a source of titillation more than information.

The mission of the media is to please, to comfort, and primarily, to sell.

When TV was developed, it was promised that every American would learn about the world in his living room.

When computers were developed wasn't it said that they would be invaluable learning tools, that children would learn more—quickly ?

National scholastic tests show otherwise, as kids master computers as toys, and learn splendid hand-to-eye coordination, but little else.

The media paints false pictures of the nation and the world, pictures designed to serve corporate masters, and to make "America look good."

This "feel good" media approach serves the American delusion of white supremacy, but it does not inform.

When The New York Times echoes the National Star what can the word "media" mean?

The major media, like its racist projections, is to be rejected, not consumed, for your very patronage gives it life.

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Media Promotes Race War While Evading the Essential Question:Class Oppression

By Muslim Ibn Al-Haqq

The ruling class is elevating race struggle above class struggle through opportunist media coverage of situations such as the Rodney King, Reginald Denny, L.A. riots affair, O.J. Simpson trial, Mark Fuhrman tapes and "Million man march," in order to guarantee that race, instead of economic class analysis, is the number one issue in America. The reactionary atmosphere of racial hysteria being instigated is deliberately calculated to use division along racial lines, to prevent unified organization along economic class lines.

It is noteworthy that this time-dishonored practice of using race to destroy unity among labor and the poor against the forces profiting from our exploitation, is unfolding simultaneously with government-sponsored slashing of benefits and institutionalization of ultra-low wages through such anti-working class schemes as welfare slavery, managed health care (through "Death Squad Medicine"), prison slave labor, job training (for low-wage or nonexistent jobs) and so-called up by your boot straps (without boots) empowerment zones.

All that stands in the way of ruling class expansion of this process is the growth of multi-racial economic class based organization capable of compelling living wages and improved benefits, working and living conditions. The ruling class and its sell-out press understand that division along racial lines prevents unified organization along class lines.

Ruling class media coverage of Minister Farrakhan predictably only serves to increase his credibility within the eyes of his core constituency — who make up the unemployment, imprisonment and other statistics that would-be black leaders always cite as basis for their concern. They view those attacking Farrakhan in the media as their enemies. The credibility of these would-be black leaders in the eyes of the black inner city lies to a large extent in their position toward Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam (NOI).

Ruling class media coverage of the "Million man march" magnified Minister Farrakhan and the NOI's stature nationally and internationally as one of the pre-eminent voices among the same sectors of black America, who are defined as targetted groups under statutes forming the legal framework for government-sponsored institutionalization of low-wage, semi-forced labor exploitation programs mentioned before. Moreover, the ability to mobilize even half a million men (estimates rage up from 400,000), many of who come from groups targeted under government-planned economic exploitation plans, demonstrates the potential ability of Minister Farrakhan and the NOI to either help make or break these government exploitation programs disguised as empowerment and job training. The Clinton administration's so-called empowerment zones were described as the government's sole inner-city program (that is, besides prisons as transitional housing).

It is ruling class methodology to put the face of credibility on its economic exploitation programs by paying organizations in the form of grants, contracts and other incentives, to get people who look just like the people targetted for exploitation to sell the program to them as economic empowerment. It will be not only a strategic but also a counterrevolutionary error to support the government's version of institutionalized semi-forced low-wage labor disguised as welfare work programs or job training for nonexistent higher paying jobs as economic empowerment. Hence to be truly credible the jobs that Minister Farrakhan and the NOI speak of creating as solution to the prison slavery

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Corporate media have always played up to sensational news. Above Klu Klux Klansmen preach white supremacy.

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Artist Corner

Tribute to Pioneer African-American Composer

By Earnest McBride

When the composer of "The Afro-American Symphony," William Grant Still, died on December 3, 1978, the "Chicago Defender," one of the nation's great Black newspapers, lamented that one of the world's greatest musicians had died and that an entire generation never knew he existed.

Another generation has grown up since the death of Still in a Los Angeles convalescent home at age 83. In this centennial year of his birth in Woodville, Mississippi, on May 11, 1895, the great composer still remains relatively unknown in his native state, though a little less so than at the time of his death.

To correct the wrong of history, the composer's daughter, Judith Anne Still, 52, has been working incessantly to revive her father's music and memory across the United States and around the world.

With literally hundereds of compositions to his credit, ranging from basic blues, with W.C. Handy's many bands and production companies, to major symphonies and operas, Still's disappearance from the public limelight occurred long before his death in 1978. Despite being hailed by the great conductor Leopold Stowkoski as one of the five greatest American composers to appear in his lifetime, Still was often pushed aside when he did not fit the stereotypes of the nation's concert masters and theater impressarios.

"From 1949 for the next 30 years," said Still's daughter, who now lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, with her children and grandchildren, "it was a matter of my father having his name wiped out of history, almost, in terms of the music community."

Whatever the reasons for relegating William Grant Still to the outer limits of musical obscurity — whether racial, cultural, commercial or political — the mavens of the establishment came very close to obtaining their goal of annihilation of such a rare talent ever to be found in American music. Witness the testimony of London Branch, the director of the Jackson State University Symphony Orchestra and a professor of music at the university: "When I first came to Mississippi, I was kind of appalled to find that the people of Mississippi didn't know much about him. I remember when I called Woodville for the first time to talk to them about Still. People there had never heard of him. But after we talked they got sort of excited about him. That was around eight or ten years ago.

"William Grant Still has been a first in so many situations," Branch continued. "He was the first Black composer to have a piece commissioned by a major symphony orchestra. He was also the first to have a major piece performed by a major symphony orchestra. He just happened to be a person who had the feel and the ability and the drive to get it done."

Branch and the Music department at Jackson State had planned a concert of his music to celebrate the William Grant Still Centennial. The state legislature honored Still by passing a commemorative resolution citing his many achievements. And the Woodville Historical and Heritage Association plans to dedicate a memorial to Still at a ceremony to include a concert of the master's compositions. This event was originally set for February 1996, but that date remains uncertain.

Earnest McBride, Commemorator Southern States Correspondent, is a professional journalist, now residing in Jackson, Mississippi, where he is a frequent contributor to local newspapers.

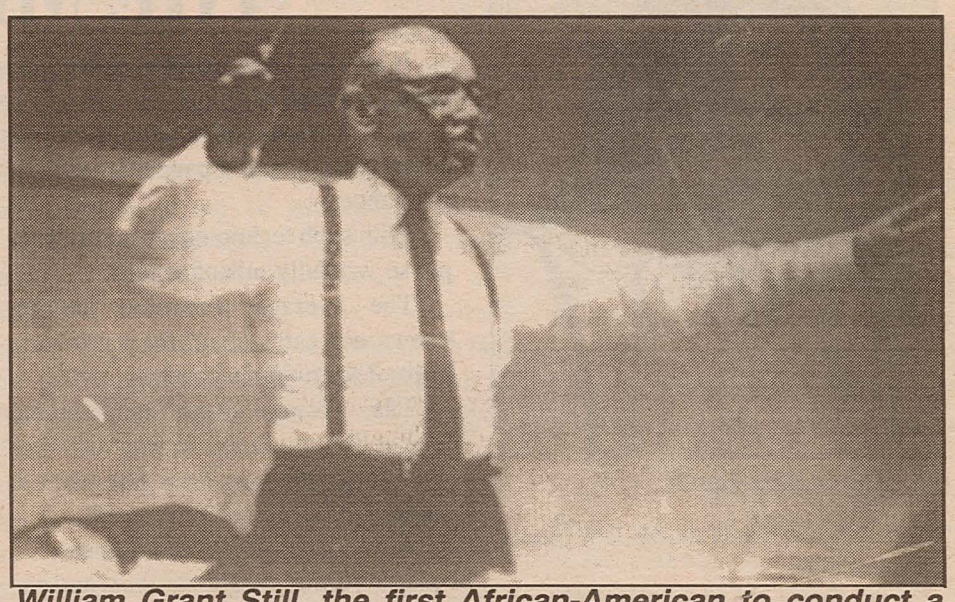

Photo courtesy of Earnest McBride

William Grant Still, the first African-American to conduct a major orchestra.

Media/Race

Continued from page 3

industrial complex cannot be the same low-wage jobs that ruling class is forcing the working class into under the threat of ineligibility for entitlement programs.

On the other hand, the material feasibility of creating jobs through black-owned businesses, must be analyzed from the standpoint of the realities of the current business environment of international monopoly capitalism's ownership of the wholesale means of social production, which places small-scale black business in position of purchasing the factors of production at prices set by the same forces who profit from underclass economic exploitation. This, in turn, has the potential to create a small black business environment of operating costs that will require payment of lower wages in order to remain competitive with competitors, whose profitability is derived from exploitation of low-wage labor internationally. The U.S. Census Bureau, Congressional Budget Office, Federal Reserve and private economic income, wealth distribution, and employment data shows an increasing income gap between the rich and the low-income workers in the United States — wider than in any other nation in the advanced industrial world. Particularly, there is downward pressure on wages from the increased reliance on domestic and foreign cheap labor. The outlook for living wage job expansion in such an environment is bleak at best, absent is the revigoration of a labor movement that can bring production to a standstill and demand improved wages, benefits and conditions, beginning at the bottom of the socioeconomic, blacks-as-last-hired, first fired ladder.

The only factor of production that labor and the poor own is our labor power. It's clear that the majority of non-wealthy persons' only alternative for survival other than crime or living off of the handouts of others is to perform labor because most of us cannot and do not operate our own businesses under the current set up. This is why labor organization is central to any improvement in working income, benefits, working and living conditions. This is also why current ruling class exploitive efforts are aimed at using racial division to prevent, multi-racial labor organization from being unified. If their race card tactic works, inner-city minorities, will be used at lower wages to compete for jobs held by whites, so-called nonminorities.

The race card has already demonstrated the potential for pitting blacks against Asians, Arabs, Latinos and Whites over micro-businesses which represent the crumbs or spoils of monopoly capitalism. It is counter-revolutionary to pursue taking the crumbs of capitalism under a theory of race-based, e.g., black capitalism. It profits the common enemy — those on the top with boots on our necks — for those on or near the bottom to view each other as enemies.

The political aspect of the "million man march" must be analyzed, I believe, through the context of Malcolm X's famed Ballot or the Bullet analogy; which questions the willingness and ability of the ruling class government to redistribute wealth and power through electoral politics, especially when the government forms the superstructural support for the means of production of ruling class wealth.

Minister Farrakhan

The principle of class-based labor organizing surfaces not only as the feasible means of improving income, benefits and working conditions, but also as means of using economic power for social and political gain, as opposed to giving politicians our money to promise us everything and deliver nothing simply because freedom can't be given it has to be taken.

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Police Repression

Continued from page 1

ests on the Round Valley Reservation.) Allegedly, authorities searched the reservation for Eugene "Bear" Lincoln in connection with a shooting incident on the reservation last 14 April, which left Peters and a sheriff's officer dead. (Cunningham also represented the family of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton after Hampton was murdered 3 December, 1969 by Chicago police led by then Chicago D.A. Hanrahan.)

Lincoln is, as Peters was, a member of the traditionalist Wylacki tribe, which has been fighting to stop the encroachment of giant timber interests on the Round Valley Reservation.

Round Valley is an isolated community in Northern Mendocino County which consists of cattle ranches, Louisiana Pacific timber land, and a few small farmers, with a large Native American population and reservation situated along the Eel River, about a 150 miles north of San Francisco.

Two deputies set up an ambush in response to a tip that Arylis Peters, brother of Leonard "Acorn" Peters, who was wanted in relation to an earlier incident, and that he might be out in Little Valley, at the northeast end of Round Valley. The death of the police officer occurred, according to one Valley resident, "when police were crouching on either side of their darkened patrol car, guns at the ready." The ambush ignited into a hale of bullets that left Leonard "Acorn" Peters and a sheriff's deputy dead.

In unity, there's strength

From the Editor:

For the Lincoln and Peters family and the many like them, the land of Round Valley is sacred, but especially in today's atmosphere of privatization of public lands and resources, and cut-backs in public services, no rights of poor and working people are inviolate. That oppression and repression, both legal and illegal, violent and non-violent, will only expand as U.S. policy takes whatever shape it must to clear the way for growth and expansion of corporate profit.

Indian land and park land can and will not be spared and, as native people will testify the world over, as their land goes, so goes their people.

The people and the land, especially for Native Americans and small producers, are inseparable. When denied the ability to produce, their lives are destroyed, just as are those of urban workers without jobs and living wages.

We support the struggle of the Native people to save their land and their lives, but recognize that this struggle will only succeed if it is tied to the struggle to liberate all working people from the conditions of economic exploitation that pit one worker against another, one race against the other, while the drive for profit for the very few accelerates.

All Power to the People!

Round Valley Reservation is Rocked By Racism, Repression and Violence

By Karen Pickett

When the repeating crack-crack-crack of automatic weapons sliced through the lit night on a winding dirt road on the edge of the Round Valley Indian Reservation, the bullets that flew marked a turning point in this community. For some, it felt like the last straw in a long history of genocide and forced relocation, followed by racist police policies in modern times. For Leonard "Acorn" Peters, a Wylacki resident of Round Valley, it was his last breath, apparently just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In mid-April, the wildflowers are just coming into full bloom in the Round Valley in Mendocino County, about 150 miles north of San Francisco. Besides cattle ranches, Louisiana-Pacific timber land, and a few hippie back-to-the-landers, there is a large Native American population and reservation land in the valley. Tensions between this community and police came to a head on April 14, 1995.

Trouble started with a dispute in the town of Covelo, California, at the south end of the reservation that left Gene Britton shot dead. County sheriffs swarmed into this remote area of northern Mendocino County, immediately arresting two people in connection with that shooting and setting-up a search for a third person, Arylis Peters. In response to a tip that Arylis might be out in Little Valley, at the northeast end of Round Valley, two deputies set up an ambush, crouching on either side of their darkened patrol car, guns at the ready. What happened next has been hotly disputed.

Photo by Karen Pickett

Leonard "Acorn" Peters with Cindy Pickett and children before he was killed by Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies.

Deputies Opened Fire

According to residents' observations and journalists' research, the deputies fired on two men who approached the stake-out, two men who were not connected in any way to the earlier shooting. Leonard was in front and was killed instantly in the first volley of bullets. Shortly thereafter, Deputy Bob Davis took a bullet to the head. Police have accused Leonard's companion on the dirt road, Eugene "Bear" Lincoln, of firing that shot. Bear quickly disappeared in the midst of the gunfire aimed at him, running for his life. His hat was later recovered with a bullet hole in it, but to listen to the testimony given that same night by Davis' partner, Deputy Dennis Miller, it sounds plausible that Davis was killed by a police bullet.

Leonard's death was certainly a mistake — the police were heard shortly after asking, "That is Arylis, isn't it?" (Leonard and Arylis, though brothers, bore no resemblance to each other, except for their Native American heritage.) The behavior of authorities following that night that three people died was consistent with the covering up of mistakes, bad decisions and the frantic targeting of an Indian man as a cop killer.

Armed Occupation

As April 15 dawned, the beginnings of a heavily armed, extremely intimidating occupation of Round Valley could be seen. Authorities from at least five jurisdictions poured into the community, and under the guise of conducting a search for Bear Lincoln, terrorized the community with warrantless searches and strong-arm tactics. People were hauled out of their cars at gunpoint and cops brandishing automatic weapons aimed them at infants and toddlers. All the while, police made it very clear to the victims of this harassment that they could blame Bear, stating to the press at one point, "We know someone's hiding him... We're going to keep being a thorn in their side until they cough him up," implying that somehow the community had the power to stop the abuse of police power.

Police never notified the family of Leonard's death and they denied the family members access to his body for a full week after the shooting. By that time, when relatives preparing his body for the funeral found signs of wounds inconsistent with police reports, the story had slipped off the front page of the county's newspapers. When confronted by Leonard's sister with the case of mistaken identity, a Mendocino sheriff's deputy responded, "What does it matter now?"

Genocide and Forced Relocation

Tensions between residents, especially Native American residents of the valley and authorities have deep roots. The Round Valley, a beautiful and fertile valley, is the ancestral home of (what came to be known as) the Yuki people, who lived in harmony with the earth until the mid-1800's when the

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Huey's Corner

Boston College Speech, 1970

Conclusion

I think that the mistake is either that some people have taken the apparent as the actual fact in spite of their claims of scholarly research and following the discipline of dialectical materialism. They fail to search deeper, as the scientist is required to do, to get beyond the apparent and come up with the more significant. Let me explain how this relates to the Black Panther Party. The Black Panther Party is a Marxist-Leninist party because we follow the dialectical method and we also integrate theory

"We can't go back to our mother's womb, nor can we go back to 1917" — Dr. Huey P. Newton

with practice. We are not mechanical Marxists and we are not historical materialists. Some people think they are Marxists when actually they are following the thoughts of Hegel. Some people think they are Marxist-Leninists but they refuse to be creative, and are, therefore, tied to the past. They are tied to a rhetoric that does not apply to the present set of conditions. They are tied to a set of thoughts that approaches dogma—what we call flunkyism.

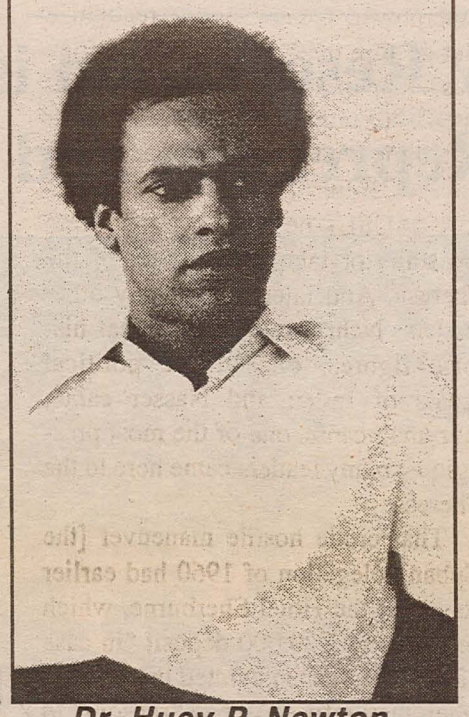
Marx attempted to set up a framework which could be applied to a number of conditions. And in applying this framework we cannot be afraid of the outcome because things change and we must be willing to acknowledge that change because we are objective. If we are using the method of dialectical materialism we don't expect to find anything the same even one minute later because "one minute later" is history. If things are in a constant state of change, we cannot expect them to be the same. Words used to describe old phenomena may be useless to describe the new. And if we use the old words to describe new events we run the risk of confusing people and misleading them into thinking that things are static.

In 1917 an event occurred in the Soviet Union that was called a revolution. Two classes had a contradiction and the whole country was transformed. In this country, 1970, the Black Panther Party issued a document. Our Minister of Information, Eldridge Cleaver, who now is in Algeria, wrote a pamphlet called "On the Ideology of the Black Panther Party." In that work Eldridge Cleaver stated that neither the proletarians nor the industrial workers carry the potentialities for revolution in this country at this time. He claimed that the left wing of the proletarians, the lumpenproletarians, have that revolutionary potential, and in fact, acting as the vanguard, they would carry the people of the world to the final climax of the transformation of society. It has been stated by some people, by some parties, by some organizations, by the Progressive Labor Party, that revolution is impossible. How can the lumpenproletarians carry out a successful socialist transformation when they are only a minority? And in fact how can they do it when history shows that only the proletarians have carried out a successful social revolution? I agree that it is necessary for the people who carry out a social revolution to represent the popular majority's interests. It is necessary for this group to represent the broad masses of the people. We analyzed what happened in the Soviet Union in 1917. I also agree that the lumpenproletarians are the minority in this country. No disagreement. Have I contradicted myself? It only goes to show that what's apparent might not actually be a fact. What appears to be a contradiction may be only a paradox. Let's examine this apparent contradiction.

The Soviet Union, in 1917, was basically an agricultural society with a very large peasantry. A set of social conditions existing there at that time was responsible for the development of a small industrial base. The people who worked in this industrial base were called proletarians. Lenin, using Marx's theory, saw the trends. He was not a historical materialist, but dialectical materialist, and therefore very interested in the ever-changing status of things. He saw that while the proletarians were a minority in 1917, they had the potential to carry out a revolution because their class was increasing and the peasantry was declining. That was one of the conditions. The proletarians were destined to be a popular force. They also had access to the properties necessary for carrying out a socialist revolution.

In this country the Black Panther Party, taking careful note of the dialectical method, taking careful note of the social trends and the ever-changing nature of things, sees that while the lumpenproletarians are the minority and the proletarians are the majority, technology is developing at such a rapid rate that automation will progress to cybernation, and cybernation probably to technocracy. As I came into town I saw MIT over the way. If the ruling circle remains in power it seems to me that capitalists will continue to develop their technological machinery because they are not interested in the people. Therefore, I expect from them the logic that they have always followed: to make as much money as possible, and pay the people as little as possible—until the people demand more, and finally demand their heads. If revolution does not occur almost immediately, and I

Photo by Candice Bergen



Dr. Huey P. Newton, BPP leader

say almost immediately because technology is making leaps (it made a leap all the way to the moon), and if the ruling circle remains in power the proletarian working class will definitely be on the decline because they will be unemployables and therefore swell the ranks of the lumpens, who are the present unemployables. Every worker is in jeopardy because of the ruling circle, which is why we say that the lumpenproletarians have the potential for revolution, will probably carry out the revolution, and in the near future will be the popular majority. Of course, I would not like to see more of my people unemployed or become unemployables, but being objective, because we're dialectical materialists, we must acknowledge the facts.

Marx outlined a rough process of the development of society. He said that society goes from a slave class to a feudalistic class structure to a capitalistic class structure to a socialistic class structure and finally to communism. Or in other words, from capitalist state to socialist state to non-state: communism. I think we can all agree that the slave class in the world has virtually been transformed into the wage slave. In other words, the slave class in the world no longer exists as a significant force, and if we agree to that we can agree that classes can be transformed literally out of existence. If this is so, if the slave class can disappear and become something else—or not disappear but just be transformed—and take on other characteristics, then it is also true that the proletarians or the industrial working class can possibly be transformed out of existence. Of course the people themselves would not disappear; they would only take on other attributes. The attribute that I am interested in is the fact that soon the ruling circle will not need the workers, and if the ruling circle is in control of the means of production the working class will become unemployables or lumpens. That is logical; that is dialectical. I think it would be wrong to say that only the slave class could disappear.

Marx was a very intelligent man. He was not a dogmatist. Once he said, "One thing I'm not, I'm not a Marxist." In those words, he was trying to tell the Progressive Labor Party and others not to accept the past as the present or the future, but to understand it and be able to predict what might happen in the future and therefore act in an intelligent way to bring about the revolution that we all want.

After taking those things into consideration we see that as time changes and the world is transformed we need some new definitions, for if we keep using the old terms people might think the old situation still exists. I would be amazed if the same conditions that existed in 1917 were still existing today.

You know Marx and Lenin were pretty lazy dudes when it came to working for somebody. They looked at toil, working for your necessities, as something of a curse. And Lenin's whole theory, after he put Marx's analysis into practice, was geared to get rid of the proletarians. In other words, when the proletarian class or the working class seized the means of production, they would plan their society in such a way as to be free from toil. As a matter of fact, Lenin saw a time in which man could stand in one place, push buttons and move mountains. It sounds to me as though he saw a proletarian working class transformed and in possession of a free

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King's Market

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International Update

President Fidel Castro's Speech in Harlem

Courtesy of Ocean Press

Cuba's new revolutionary leader Fidel Castro met by thousands of people in front of Harlem's Theresa Hotel in 1960.

(Editor's note: The following is Part Two of President Fidel Castro's speech in Harlem October 22 , 1995)

Today there are some changes, except some of our compatriots who still have not finished going over to the cause of national sovereignty—I say some because truly their number is shrinking—they spent money, spent everything, they paid and looked for I don't know how many resources.

"Remember what Lincoln said, that you can fool all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time."

A journalist told me: "Do you know that there are 58 protests against you?" And I tell him: "Listen, what luck, I haven't seen any" (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE). I don't know where he got that figure. I tell him: "But I have seen thousands of people cheering me all over." Now there are people that salute me in many places; I saw real changes. We have to realize that at that time we lived in the cold war, there was a lot of hostility to the newly born Revolution. That was in 1960.

Then they made life impossible for me in the hotel, and I still had a little bit of guerrilla mentality and I say: "I'm going to the patio of the United Nations, in some tents there" (LAUGHTER). That was one version. I kept thinking: If only there were a contact here with the Hotel Theresa. There is something much more strategic: go to stay there in the Hotel Theresa because I knew that I could count on the heart of this community (APPLAUSE). The injustice was obvious, discrimination was obvious, and as a revolutionary I knew the reception that I would have.

Remember what Lincoln said, that you can fool all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time (APPLAUSE). But you were the part of the people that they could never fool (APPLAUSE).

Here Rosemari spoke of the personalities who came to the Theresa, international leaders who came to demonstrate solidarity. Khrushchev came, yes, Khrushchev was one of the first who came, he was the head of a superpower, I thank him, I recognize that gesture that he gave. Khrushchev was a man of peasant origin, an astute, likable person and he didn't wreck that thing that used to be called the Soviet Union (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE), he was happy to climb the stairs or take the elevator of the Theresa. And later came many other leaders: Nehru, one of the great historic figures, one of the political greats of India; and Nasser came; Nkrumah came, one of the most prestigious; many leaders came here to the Theresa.

That crude hostile maneuver [the Cuban delegation of 1960 had earlier stayed at the Hotel Sherburne, which demanded a $20,000 deposit "in case of damages," then evicted the Cubans when they refused to pay "ransom" to "gangsters," the delegation then moved to the Theresa] really didn't pay dividends to anyone, in fact it rendered an unforgettable memory to me, a feeling of eternal gratitude for the North American people, because I saw in you the representation of the best virtues, the best qualities of the North American people (APPLAUSE).

A tale was written. And do you know how long ago that was? Thirty-five years; so it is thirty-five years since my visit. The incredible thing is that they still expel me from the dinners, from the receptions and all those things, as if nothing had changed in these thirty five years (LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE); as if we were still in the cold war. It's cold inside here now (LAUGHTER); no, human warmth, but cold temperature, it seems that the church doesn't have much money for heat (LAUGHTER). It is incredible that that history is repeated in that way.

Now, I would have to ask another question: Why do you receive our delegation with so much respect? That demands an answer, it demands an answer: That if others have not changed, neither will we change (APPLAUSE AND EXCLAMATIONS), and others will change because they are wrong, and we will never change because we are right (APPLAUSE). And the best test, the best test is you and the warmth and affection with which you have received us today.

I think that our people have fulfilled its moral duty, it has been faithful to its principles and it has carried out solidarity (APPLAUSE).

Compañera Rosemari spoke about some of the international solidarity efforts that Cuba has made. She spoke of doctors, more than 15,000 Cuban doctors have lent internationalist services to the Third World (APPLAUSE); millions and tens of millions of people have been cared for by our doctors, in Africa, fundamentally, in Latin America and in other places (APPLAUSE); hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved by the effort of those doctors. Thousands and thousands of professors and teachers have taught, technicians all over, in all fields.

Cuba was left with 3,000 doctors of the 6,000 that it had had and they took away 3,000: better salaries, better conditions. Nevertheless, today we have almost 60,000 doctors (APPLAUSE AND EXCLAMATIONS). And if one day the North Americans need doctors — I know that they have a lot and they're good — if in some place, in some corner, in some neighborhood there is no doctor, our doctors would be happy to also come to work in the United States (APPLAUSE AND EXCLAMATIONS OF "Viva Cuba revolucionaria!")

Courtesy of Ocean Press

Cuba's revolutionary leader, President Fidel Castro Ruz, and the late Malcolm X at the Theresa Hotel in Harlem, New York in 1960.

To cite another case of solidarity: the Nicaraguans needed doctors. You know that, at that time, from abroad they didn't send doctors; they sent cannons, machine guns, helicopters, bombing and weapons all over the place. And while from abroad they sent men to take Nicaragua to tragedy, to death, 2,000 Cuban teachers, mostly women, went to Nicaragua to teach; but not to Managua, not to the cities, but to the mountains, to the jungles, to the most remote places (APPLAUSE). And when we asked for volunteers for that mission, 30,000 volunteered (APPLAUSE), thirty thousand! You see, brother Butts, what feeling of solidarity was being created in our people. And when some counterrevolutionaries murdered some teachers, 100,000 volunteered! (APPLAUSE) Those were the moral values that were being created with the changes in our country.

I am going to cite another example: when there was a great earthquake in Peru, that killed 70,000 people, we asked the people for blood donations, and in 10 days 100,000 blood donations were offered and drawn (APPLAUSE); when there was an earthquake in Armenia 50,000 donations were offered and given (APPLAUSE); when there was an earthquake in Iran there also were given tens of thousands of donations, and wherever there has been a tragedy, some storm, an earthquake, our technicians, our doctors, our people has been ready to help, independent of ideologies, whether or not they had diplomatic relations with our country (APPLAUSE).

That is the blockaded country, that is the country that is accused of violations of human rights, the country that has raised the average life expectancy to almost 76 years (APPLAUSE), and that on reducing infantile mortality from 60 for each 1,000 births, in the first year of life, to less than 10 (APPLAUSE), has saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of children, and has prolonged the life of so many people, has eased so much pain, so much physical pain it has eliminated. In the same way that in the first years it eliminated illiteracy and has today the highest per capita number of professors and teachers in the world (APPLAUSE), in the same way that it has the highest per capita number of doctors (APPLAUSE).

This is the accused country, a country that since the war follows an invariable line: support in an absolute and total manner people's physical integrity. And the best witness was that of the 3,000 prisoners that we took in Giron [the Bay of Pigs]. There is not one who could say that someone was murdered in the heat of combat or that anyone had even a hair on his head damaged.

To Be Continued
Next issue

Women Fight

Continued from page 1

lems that place each incarcerated woman's life in danger in California."

One inmate told ***Commemorator*** she had to wait up to one month or more for a medical appointment, or even to receive aspirin. She reported how the body of one female inmate, who had died of AIDS in the prison infirmary, was not removed for days. "We dread becoming ill because we know there's little chance of receiving proper medical care," she said.

"Additionally, the suit charges that the prisons' dramatically deficient medical care for chronically and terminally ill women has caused needless pain and suffering and threatened their health and lives," stated Judy Greenspan, head organizer for HIV/AIDS in Prison Project. The plaintiffs-prisoners include women with cancer, heart disease, sickle cell anemia, AIDS, tuberculosis and other illnesses.

Fresno attorney Campbell added, "What happens inside CCWF is an extreme example of what is happening to poor people's health care in general. Women do not receive basic services or access to routine care, examinations, follow-up care, pain medication, and a diet necessary to maintain optimum health with chronic disease.

Women are committing an increasing number of property crimes. The nature of crime reflects the modest, if not desperate, socioeconomic circumstances of the women apprehended. "Property crimes such as check forgery and illegal credit card use are the most typical violations that lead to imprisonment," according to Aid to Imprisoned Mothers. A less prevalent but nevertheless increasing crime by women is the possession and/or sale of drugs.

Although women make up only about 6% of the entire prison population, the number of female inmates is growing at a rate of 15% annually, almost twice the rate of men's imprisonment, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Female Prisoners Mostly Young, Poor, Minority Mothers

"Women of color comprise the majority of the U.S. female prison population. A national profile shows that they tend to be young (under 30), have a sporadic employment history, less than a high school education, and live in poverty," according to the study compiled by Aid to Imprisoned Mothers: Atlanta.

The majority of incarcerated women are mothers who were the head of the household, and are now separated by prison bars from an estimated 250,000 children. With an increased rate of incarceration of women, and longer sentences, children are separated from their mothers for longer time periods.

Story Must be Told

"As the nation's economic conditions worsen for working class communities, those hit the hardest, minorities and women, are experiencing some of the most horrible and dehumanizing conditions that have ever existed in the history of the nation," stated Melvin Dickson, ***Commemorator*** Editor. "The worst part is that their story isn't being told. The majority of the population knows nothing of the conditions in women's prisons."

Photo by Judi M. Parks

The late Joann Walker, sentenced in 1992 to four years for theft of a jacket, was imprisoned at Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, before she became an activist and led a campaign for fair treatment of women prisoners with AIDS. On July 13,1994 she died of AIDS.

Systemic Deprivation of Care

They are suing Governor Wilson, the California Department of Corrections and the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency for systematic deprivation of essential care for their medical needs, inflicting needless pain and suffering, and threatening their physical and mental well-being. The lawsuit also challenges practices of the Department of Corrections that disclose the HIV status of women prisoners, according to the Pelican Bay Prison Project, a non-profit group that has gone into the prison with volunteers, including doctors, on behalf of California inmates.

Inmates Can't Afford Medicine or Care

Lead plaintiff Charisse Shumate is incarcerated at CCWF and suffers from sickle cell anemia, serious heart problems, pulmonary hypertension and asthma. "There have been many times that I have not had the money to purchase necessary medical supplies because I have been forced to use my already limited funds to pay for medical visits," Shumate explained. "This has also happened to other women here—women who have AIDS and other serious illnesses. This is why we have chosen to fight against these conditions."

In spite of her life-threatening condition Ms. Shumate frequently has been deprived of necessary medication and appropriate medical care and treatment. She does not receive adequate, nutritious food to maintain her health. As of November 1, 1994, prison authorities began to require Ms. Shumate and all other women prisoners to pay $5.00 per medical visit. Requests for care invite retribution.

One plaintiff prisoner, Marcia Bunny, commented, "From birth, women are carefully schooled to compromise, reason, cajole, 'make do,' and cower in peril of our lives rather than speak out. Women in prison quickly learn that asking for decent medical care is often fruitless." She continued, "actively seeking it, a lengthy and frustrating struggle; and demanding it, all too often inviting retribution from prison staff and administrators who see only 'offenders' and dollar signs, rather than captive human beings in need of adequate care, a right which is supposedly protected by the Constitution. The California Department of Corrections accuses us of demanding 'Cadillac Care.' Our warden, Teena Farmon, has stated publicly that the quality of medical care provided at the Central California Women's Facility at Chowchilla (CCWF) is superior to what most of 'these women' received in the free world. With due respect, if that were so, many clinics would have been closed, licenses revoked, and prison sentences imposed on those running them.

We Are Speaking Out Now

"We are speaking out for those among us in pain; for those who are terminally ill and in terror of an abysmally lonely death in prison; for those of us who have watched friends die for lack of medical attention, care, and treatment; for those who have parole dates and want to leave prison whole; for those who as yet have no date, and want to survive to receive one; for those who will never leave, but want to live productive lives in this, our community. We are speaking out now. We are speaking out as the CDC has driven us to do, in fear for our health and our lives—in court."

Brenda Smith, spokeswoman for the National Women's Law Project in Washington D.C., told ***Commemorator***, "Even while the numbers of women in prison have increased dramatically, you have just as dramatic an absence of attention to what these women need, and hostility toward the women themselves. We find hard and hostile positions about what to do with these women."

Crime is to be Poor

Virtually 75% of crimes for which women are imprisoned nationwide can be traced to their socioeconomic conditions. Contrary to popular stereotype, only a small percentage of imprisoned women have committed violent crimes.

An imprisoned mother in a personal interview stated, "It's not only me who suffers, it's the kids too. My children and my family were sentenced along with me. When I talk to my kids, they have told me, 'please don't steal, we can do without,' but my kids never did without. I stole for need. I would go into a store and open a package to get diapers."

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Round Valley

Continued from page 5

U.S. government began its program of genocide on California's north coast. The Round Valley Indian Reservation was established in 1853, when the remainder of six tribes in addition to the Yuki — Wylacki, Pomo, Pitt River, Little Lake, Concow and Nomolacki — were all forced into a portion of what was Yuki territory, along with

Photo by Karen Pickett

Round Valley children learn about their history through practicing traditional native dance.

Indian-hating white settlers. These were tribes whose ancestral lands covered vast areas reaching over what is now the Oregon border, embracing the Mt. Shasta area and south to (currently) southern Mendocino County.

Theft, fraud and bad faith deals have shrunk reservation lands to a mere 33,000 acres, with a population of approximately 1200 tribal residents. Although throwing together seven tribes from far-flung regions and severely diminishing overall tribal lands seems a recipe for discord, residents of the Round Valley, where the North Fork and Middle Forks of the mighty Eel River flow, have managed to set up tribal infrastructure that includes a tribal council, housing authority, a health center and a substance abuse clinic.

Valuable Forests and Fishing Grounds

This reservation, the second largest in California, retains valuable ancestral fishing grounds along the Eel and Azbil Creek and still holds old growth Douglass fir forests, so far resisting timber beasts like Louisiana-Pacific (LP) who have devastated lands all around the reservation. Nonetheless, the area is a pocket of poverty, unemployment, chronic illness and despair.

The authorities and mainstream media are quick to try to characterize problems in the valley as stemming from intra-community disputes, or "feuds" between families or individuals. Those differences do exist, and often are a matter of "traditionalists vs. assimilationists," i.e., those who seek to restore or keep alive native traditional practices and a native spiritual belief, and those who seek to join the American mainstream.

Racist Police Policies at Root of Present Tensions

But rather than feuds within the community, residents point to racist policies, and a pattern of selective enforcement of the law by county authorities, as the real reason violence and tension continue to erupt. While county authorities claim to have attempted solutions in the past few years, like hiring a local deputy of Native American heritage, selective prosecution goes on nonetheless. The moves involve sidestepping the issues, turning their backs on beatings and shootings that have gone unprosecuted, and pounding on certain members of the community for less serious violations. This selective enforcement has become all the more painfully evident in the aftermath of April 14.

While family and friends mourned the death of Leonard "Acorn" Peters — father of seven children, the youngest three of whom lived under his care — Bear Lincoln also agonized in isolation over the death of his lifelong friend, a death he was the sole witness to, save the deputy. Fearing for his life after being branded a cop-killer and orders to shoot to kill were issued, Bear managed to hide out in the forest for four months. On May 5, under request from Mendocino Sheriff Jim Tuso, California governor Pete Wilson posted a $100,000 reward, the highest allowable, and crews from TV's "America's Most Wanted" arrived in town to stage a "re-enactment" despite vociferous protest from local residents, supporters in other parts of the country, and organizations such as the Leonard Peltier Defense Community in the Netherlands.

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Shutdown and Guns

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loughed workers throughout the holiday month. And as a result, militant protests broke out, spreading throughout the country, as we heard story after story about how hundreds of thousands of federal workers and their families faced a cold winter without paychecks. "Safeway and Lucky (grocery stores) want cash. So do we!" said Yvonne Pete, a federal worker protesting outside the San Francisco federal building in December, 1995.

Citizens Outraged

This government-staged lockout has outraged and amazed citizens, despite a temporary budgetary measure in which the President and Congress were forced to take shortly after laid-off and "furloughed" workers took to the streets. As a result, the temporary compromise by the politicians re-opened the federal government. But many federal employees were simply not recalled after the goverment's two partial shutdowns, since November 16, 1995.

"Peace Mission in the Balkans"

Meanwhile, 20,000 American combat troops are in Bosnia, under the guise of "a peace mission," costing U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars each day, not to mention the lives of America's sons and daughters, destined to die as cannon fodder.

A year ago, President Clinton refused to commit U.S. military aid to any direct involvement in the Balkan war, but all that changed after NATO forces bombed Serbian-controlled towns and communities throughout Bosnia. Despite last year's peace agreement in Dayton, Ohio, which gave the Muslims and Croatian's 51 percent of the land, an agreement signed by leaders of Bosnia-Croatia and Serbia, but not the "Bosnian Serbs," according to all parties involved, there's no guarantee that real peace is at hand.

"My government is taking part in this agreement not with any enthusiasm, but as someone taking a bitter potion," said President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia, after the formal signing of the accord in Paris, reached after the mediation headed by President Clinton in Dayton, Ohio last November, and despite the NATO military "aid" Izetbegovic's government received in driving the Serbs from towns and suburbs of Sarajevo, such as Ilidza.

"If you think the war is over, you are wrong," said one angry Serb officer who refused to give his name. "We spit on this agreement," said another Serb who also refused to give his name. These deep-seated antagonisms show quite a different picture than the superficial media coverage of Bosnia in the U.S.

What we do know is that there are some 1.7 million war refugees, homeless and destitute men, women and children with nowhere to turn. The United States and more than 40 other countries held a two-day meeting in London in early December to plan the Bosnian reconstruction, but without even trying to address the critical question of who would pay for a program that in the long run would cost over $5 billion, according to Richard W. Stevenson of The New York Times.

Politicians' Compromise

Despite the Washington politicians' temporary compromise to pay federal workers their pay checks and re-open the government, and the still outstanding five trillion dollar federal debt, no one connected these financial facts to the continued expense of U.S. troop intervention. Our leaders in Washington appear to be without a clue on how to resolve this economic crisis. Yet, imagine what reallocating those war funds could do for the federal budget.

This drive toward privatization and massive social service cuts is bringing to the fore the politics and philosophpy of both the liberals and conservatives through their barbaric federal budget contest, debating the fate and future of thousand, nay, millions of Americans at a time when both the republican controlled Congress and the democratic President have their sights on the upcomming presidential election, as well as the very destiny of the nation.

A Nation of Slaves?

Will we become a nation of a majority of slaves, under the control of government/multinational corporations without the facade of democracy, or continue on as slaves under the control of government/multinational rulers with a facade, without the economic bribes of the past, pretending to be "free" under conditions of involuntary servitude — asks Dickson.

Within this framework, choices are few for the majority of us who now own nothing but debt to those who profit from wars; we who have to work and struggle to survive, our sons and daughters, seeking a future, join the military to pursue that future and unwittingly become cannon fodder, dying a premature physical death. It goes almost without saying poor and minority Americans will be the ones to pay the greatest price in the war; they will pay with their lives. But we all will be killed one way or another due to the government/multinationals' usurpation of public power, unless we join together to defeat the machine that refuses to serve the interests of the

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Song of Unity A Three-dimensional landmark mural on La Pena's building depicting the joining of people of the Americas in a common cultural bond against oppression. Created by Anna de Leon, Osha Neumann, Ray Patlan, O'Brian Thiele and Joanne Cooke.

Photo: Irene Young

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Women Fight

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Barbaric Conditions

Ellen Barry of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, charged, "Often there is a misperception that prisoners are demanding special treatment when they complain of the absence of medical care in prison. On the contrary, the conditions that some of these women have had to endure are barbaric."

Charlie Freiberg, a partner in the law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe, added, "At both of these facilities, women experience great pain and unnecessary suffering due to long delays in receiving necessary medical and dental care. This is intolerable and inhumane. Medical care should never be used as a method of punishment by the Department of Corrections."

Economic Pecking Order Apparent

"The economic pecking order in this country, keeping poor and working class blacks and minority women at the bottom, is even more apparent in prison. Those who have historically made up the bulk of the prison population have been those held in economic check daily, our attempt to escape condition of oppression leads to early death or devastation of our lives, whether it be through a crime, illegal drugs or overwork. Poverty takes its toll on us," Dickson commented.

"The root cause of crime is poverty. There's more money spent in the nation on the prison industry than on higher education. It's a profitable enterprise, as more and more private companies contract with the state to run the prisons. To reverse these trends means building a fighting movement and organizations, from the bottom up, with a methodology to enlist people from poor and oppressed communities to fight to reverse these trends. ***Commemorator*** participates through supporting grass roots efforts to eliminate poverty, and through the promulgation of vital information on behalf of the victims who are members of the low-income and working class community," stated Dickson.

*(**Commemorator** thanks the following organizations and individuals for providing material for this article: Pelican Bay Prison Express [SF], Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice [SF], Judy Greenspan, Catherine Campbell and Dr. Cory Weinstein.)*

Huey's Corner

Continued from page 6

block of time, to indulge in productive creativity, to think about developing their universe, so that they could have the happiness, the freedom and the pleasure that all men seek and value.

Today's capitalist has developed machinery to such a point that he can hire a group of specialized people called technocrats. In the near future he will certainly do more of this, and the technocrat will be too specialized to be identified as a proletarian. In fact that group of technocrats will be so vital we will have to do something to explain the presence of other people; we will have to come up with another definition and reason for existing.

But we must not confine our discussion to theory; we must have practical application of our theory to come up with anything worthwhile. In spite of the criticism that we have received from certain people, the Party has a practical application of its theories. Many of our activities provide the working class and the unemployed with a reason and a means for existing in the future. The people will not disappear — not with our survival programs they will not. They will still be around. The Black Panther Party says it is perfectly correct to organize the proletarians because after they are kicked out of the factory and are called unemployable or lumpen, they still want to live, and in order to live they have to eat. It is in the proletarian's own best interest to seize the machinery that he has made in order to produce in abundance, so he and his brethren can live. We will not wait until the proletarian becomes the lumpenproletarian to educate him. Today we must lift the consciousness of the people. The wind is rising and the rivers flowing, times are getting hard and we can't go home again. We can't go back to our mother's womb, nor can we go back to 1917.

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August, 1995
MEMO FROM: Abdur Rashiyd Abdullah Muhammad
SUBJECT: Art Buying and Selling

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CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten Point Program which was written in 1966 by the Black Panther Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten Point Program outlined the goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working communities of the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is Reactionary Intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (that of the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation).

CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party 10-Point Program

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM. WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people in our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

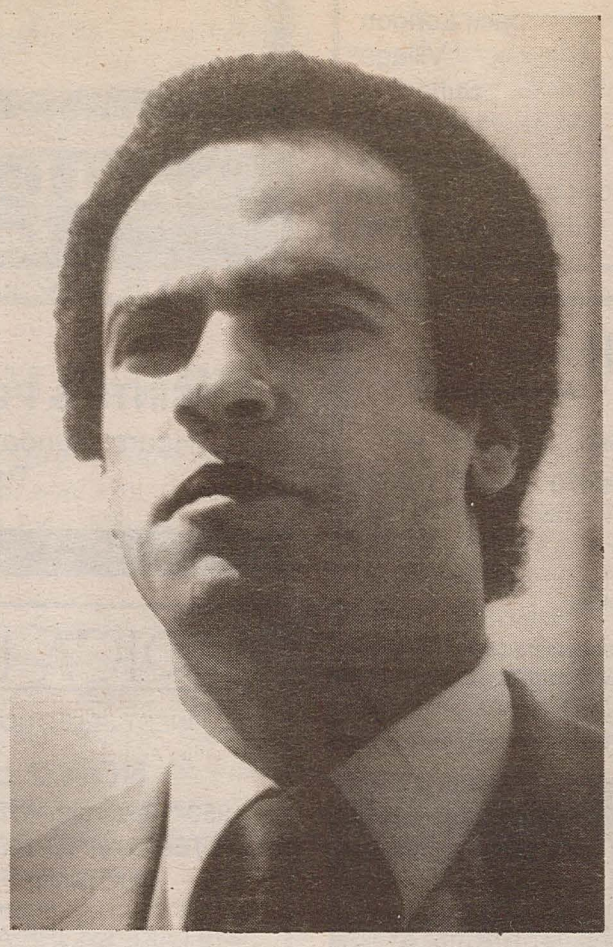
5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about because of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it's our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts that exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U.S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U.S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U.S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U.S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons are brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.



Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, during human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands that have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

Shutdown and Guns

Continued from page 9

majority of the people, here or internationally. It is time to build to truly liberate our communities, because all we have got to lose is our mental and physical shackles, which are becoming tighter by the day, resulting in the slow death of our minds and our bodies.

The solution to the Bosnian conflict is not to be found in Bosnia alone. The problem was born of international conflict between the most powerful socialist country in the world and monopoly capital. The passions and prejudices that fueled this war came to the surface only because of a shift in the conflict between economic systems — the international struggle for power through control of wealth. The fear of being powerless and poor is what fuels the Bosnian conflict, and security to all will solve it.

The grand strategy of a murderous minority of the U.S., which lives by seizing control of wealth at the expense of the overwhelming majority, created room in Yugoslavia for petty thieves to carve up a state where six nationalities once lived peacefully. No nation in the U.N. forces, least of all the U.S., has any intention of delivering power to the people; the one thing that they so desperately need.

Round Valley

Continued from page 9

Bear emerged to turn himself in on August 16, 1995, when he presented himself to authorities at a press conference held in the San Francisco. Leonard Peters and I were ambushed," he said in a soft voice. "I'm here to prove my innocence."

With that, Bear offered his wrists for the handcuffs and thus began the next chapter in the saga that began centuries before April 14. Since August, Bear has been held in a jail cell in Ukiah, California, awaiting trial, which could be as early as April 1996, but could be tied up longer with pretrial activity. A defense fund has been set up for Bear, and other avenues of resistance are opening up. Early on, organizations and individuals sent the message to authorities and the media that people from outside the small community did care and were monitoring the situation.

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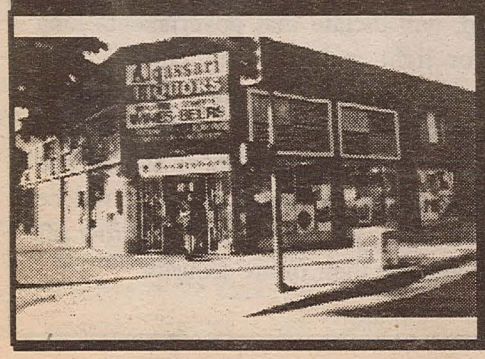

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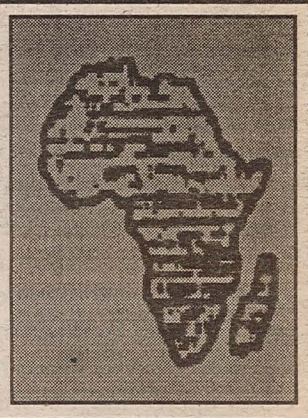

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